

## **Points for Briefing**

- I want to thank those Mississippians who heeded the warnings to leave. Please have patience with the expected traffic congestion – we are all in this together.
- If you have not left yet, please do so now.
- While the projected path is still uncertain, we are certain that Mississippi will feel the effects of this storm.
- Do not take comfort just because you live in Central Mississippi or other areas north of the Coast. We are expecting strong winds and heavy rainfall throughout the state.
- There are 57 shelters open now with a capacity of almost 20,000. The Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson will open today at 2 p.m. as a shelter. There are also 4 special needs shelters opened.

- President Bush called me this morning to make sure we were getting everything we needed from FEMA. They have been very helpful. They have sent two search and rescue teams; two disaster medical assistance teams; and disaster recovery supplies such as water and ice for mass distribution.
- MEMA is staffed for a continuous 24 hour operation through landfall which is projected for late tonight or early Thursday morning.
- Marsha and I want to ask all Mississippians to pray that lives and property are spared.